



Weather:

You're in Massachusetts so the forecast is rain, sleet, sun, snow, hail, hurricanes, and whatever else you can dream up. It's April, do you expect the groundhog to come out and play?

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THE STROBE

THE NEWSPAPER OF FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

Issue 9

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

12 Pages

Banner bandit at large

by Sonja Randall
News Editor

There is no rest for the wicked. The wicked certainly did not allow the Fitchburg State campus to rest last week. Five days after the March 31 shootings, Greek banners which lined G-lobby were stolen.

According to campus police chief Ted Cunningham, the thief or thieves, may have hid in the stairwells of the Hammond building. The student manager on duty Thursday night told investigators that the banners were there at 1 a.m. when he

checked G-lobby. At 6 a.m. janitors noticed that the plexiglass that covered the banners had been torn off. Only the edges of the banners remained, having been cut by a razor.

Friday at 10:30 a.m. a student ran through G-lobby dressed in black, wearing a ski mask, matching the description of Sunday night's shooter. The student was caught and is awaiting a J-board hearing. When asked if the student could be connected to the banner theft or the shooting, Chief Cunningham replied, "No

comment."

So far no motive has been established and the perpetrator remains at large. "This definitely was not done by a recognized organization," said Sigma Tau Gamma member and SGA president Zach Darrow. "I don't think anyone would disrespect their own flag by cutting it."

Fraternity members have been interviewed and Chief Cunningham said that the Greek community has been involved in recent problems.

An on-going investigation is being conducted.

Law suit blocks rewiring

by Anna Allen
Editor-in-chief

The rewiring of FSC into the 20th century may be put on hold due to a legal dispute concerning the chapters under which the bid process was filed.

FSC hired Rand Associates, a consultant, to write a bid proposal and manage the installation of a major project which includes the wiring of voice, data, and video jacks in every dorm room. The bidding proceeded under Chapter 30 of the Mass. general laws, permitting major companies such as MCI and AT&T to compete in the process. A vendor contested the chapter through which the bidding was taking place. FSC took the matter to the hands of the Attorney General who sided with the vendor, stating that the bid should have been conducted under Chapter 149, where only small corporations can compete for the bid.

FSC is still contesting the law suit, and UMASS has joined the ranks of FSC in a similar dispute. "The problem is that we are so close to the time line where a decision has to be made," said Mike Rivard, V.P. of the Treasurers office. "If a decision is not made prior to June 1st the wiring will not be complete by September."

When the wiring does occur on campus, students will be subject to a fee of \$125 per semester (or \$250 per year). This includes access to phone lines, computer connections, and cable T.V. Commuters will receive a \$50 increase in student fees, permitting them unlimited access to the computer network. All students may also have voice mail when the bidding process is complete.

Arguments will continue this Friday in Boston at a meeting to take place with Rand Associates. Stay tuned to the *Strobe* for up-to-date coverage.

Chavez to deliver public lecture

by Sonja Randall
News Editor

Civil rights activist Linda Chavez will deliver a free public lecture at Fitchburg State College on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Chavez is the author of *Out of the Barrio: Toward a New Politics of Hispanic Assimilation*, which addresses such issues as bilingual education, voting rights, immigration policy, and affirmative action. *The New York Times* referred to Chavez as "an influential voice on civil rights policy," and *The Washington Post* described her as one of "a new generation of intellectuals seeking to question the orthodoxies of the civil rights establishment."

Many know Chavez from her regular appearances on PBS's weekly public affairs program "To the Contrary," CNN's weekday morning show "Crier & Co.," and as a 1992 election commentator for "The McNeil-Lehrer Newshour." She has been a regular contributor to National Public Radio and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on national politics, foreign affairs, and domestic policy. Other appearances include "Good Morning America," the "Today Show," the "CBS Morning News," the "Phil Donahue Show," and



Linda Chavez

"Geraldo." She frequently writes for a variety of publications including *USA Today*, *Fortune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The New York Post*.

Chavez is currently working on her second book, *A House Divided: Race and Politics of Multiculturalism*.

Chavez has held a number of political positions, among them White House director of public liaison (1985) and staff director of the U.S.

photo courtesy of Public Relations

Commission on Civil Rights (1983-1985). She won the Republican nomination for U.S. Senator from Maryland (1986), but lost in the general election. The following year, she became president of U.S. English, a public interest group dealing with language policy in the United States. Chavez was the editor of the prize-winning quarterly journal of the American Federation of Teachers, *America Educator* (1977-1983).

New benefits for honors students

by Vanessa Manni
Staff Reporter

Honors students were given priority over freshman, sophomores, and juniors for the fall semester of '96. Approximately 30 honors students registered on April 3. First choice for classes will continue to be reserved for seniors.

"It's not fair," said freshman Jennifer Cormier. "I think they should have priority over people in their own class, but not over upperclassmen."

This change is one of many to improve and benefit the honors program. Acting director of the Honors Program professor Tom Murray, hopes that this will draw attention to the program and encourage more students to participate, thereby expanding the program.

"The honors program helps Fitchburg State achieve academic excellence," said Associate registrar Lisa Boenitz. "The registrar's office recognizes the high standards of honor students and is willing to assist them in any way."

By registering early,

the stress of registration will be eliminated, allowing honors students time to plan their courses more effectively.

Honors courses will be assigned new op-scan numbers in order to differentiate between honors and non-honors students in the same class. Next fall professors will receive a separate attendance sheet for honors students. As always, honor students need permission from the professor before applying for honors credit, as the professor must have time to assign extra work.

"Before this year, there were not many benefits to being an honors student," said Karen McCaie, a sophomore honor student. "This is the beginning of the improvement of the program."

The response of the non-honors students seems to reflect that the population on campus is unaware of this new policy, which does and will affect their course selection and registration.

"I don't think that there is anything wrong with it," said non-honors student Lora Rodriegez. "They've earned it."

Q&A FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Q: I am thinking of going to school this summer. Is there any financial aid available to assist me?

answer on page 11

Comm. department introduces new curriculum

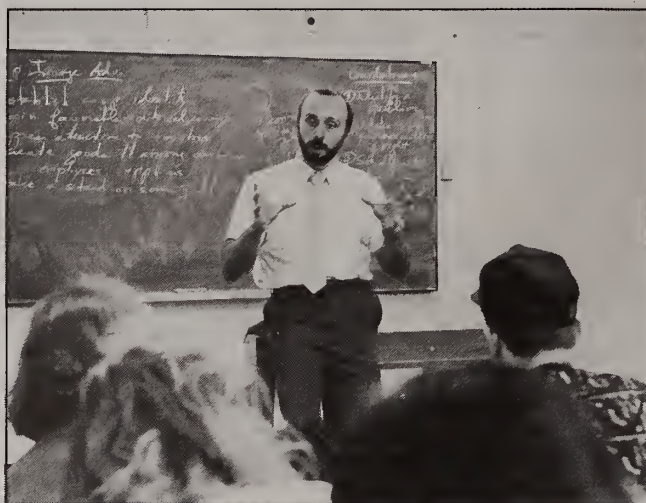
by Anna Allen
Editor-in-chief

Fitchburg State College has joined the ranks of the nation's premiere communications schools with the introduction of a new curriculum designed for students interested in careers with television, film, photography, graphic design, and technical communications.

The Communications/Media Department, long recognized as one of the strongest departments of its kind, based its redesign on the emerging importance of multimedia.

"Multimedia will be a major industry player in the 21st century," said department chairmen Charles Sides. "Graduates will have to know how to use it to design communications products. Easier access to multimedia was our primary goal. Another was to extend the department's reputation as a communications innovator."

The department has



Dr. Charles Sides

incorporated greater flexibility into its curriculum to provide students with a broad exposure to communications media, permitting them to meet the demands of their workplace. Seven tracks, each requiring eight courses, have been replaced with five, five-course concentrations: TV/Film, Photography, Graphic Design, Theory, and Technical Communications. Upon completing five required

Photo courtesy of Public Relations

courses, students choose four more courses in their concentration, four courses in another concentration, or a four-course multimedia module.

The Fitchburg State program has been hailed by experts from across the country. Philip Ruben of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute said, "I have recently reviewed undergraduate programs that incorporate multimedia, and yours is superior to all of them."

Ann Hill Duin, of the University of Minnesota added that "The curriculum sounds excellent, culminating a variety of media in multimedia design and applications."

Fitchburg State's communications/media facilities are the most technically advanced in New England. Television and film students have access to two television studios and two Avid non-linear editing systems. Photography students can use Hasselblad field cameras, digital cameras, scanners, private darkrooms, and commercial studio equipment. The graphic design laboratory features fully networked Macintosh Quadras and power Macs, which communications facilities include interactive CD-ROM and desktop publishing laboratories.

Each of the department's 13 faculty members are experienced practitioners and many are published authors with strong ties to professional organizations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AIDS QUILT COMES TO FITCHBURG

Mike Howard, Common Sensitivity Coordinator will be on campus Saturday, April 13, 1996 to present volunteer options for interested college and community residents who wish to volunteer their time in bringing the AIDS Quilt to the Wallac Civic Center, July 5-7, 1996. The presentation will be held at Thompson Hall, room 102 from 10-10:30 am. All are invited to attend.

Congressman to address FSC

Congressman John Olver will be appearing at FSC on Wednesday, April 10 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Kent Recital Hall. He will be discussing education, crime, politics, etc. and will hold a Q&A or discussion session with students.

The Strobe
is looking for
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sports editor
opinion editor
and production staff
for the upcoming
semester
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located across from
the pub.

McKay students make circus learning experience

by Judy Pugliese
Correspondent

For two hours every week, a class of college students, and first graders from the McKay campus school, walk under a striped awning and enter a classroom for a learning experience as magical as the big top itself.

The theme is the circus, and the college students, under the direction of Dr. Diana Suskind, are Early Childhood Education majors involved in "Piggybacking," working one on one with young partners. Math, science, and social studies are areas explored and discovered through lessons such as "Peanuts Galore" (graphing, estimating, and counting peanuts), circus animal measuring, inflating balloons through scientific experimentation, and constructing a circus ring with recycled items. The lesson is topped off with a field trip to the Big Apple Circus in Boston.

The seniors who are enrolled in the spring Elementary Creative Arts class at Fitchburg State College will be holding a celebration called "Festival of Creativity." The celebration is written by and will be performed by these future teachers. They will artistically share various learning experiences as student teachers. The event will be held on Thursday, April 25th from 5:00-6:00p.m. in the auditorium at McKay Campus School. There is no charge for admission.

Students involved are as follows:

Kelly Wolfgang
Stephen Emery
Carey Beaulieu
James Boyd
Cynthia Hebert

Cheryl Campbell
Kimberley Lajoie
Krista Deanaro
Stephen Skaff
Melissa Bourie

Brian Scopelliti
Meredith Hertel
James Roche
Katherine Fleming
Christine Wiggins

Heidi Auvinen
Robert Hogan
Sandra Cunha
Amy Caci

Attention ALL Education Majors, there will be a Sign Language Workshop on April 11th at 1:30 in McKay 179. This event is sponsored by the Early Education club.



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The Strobe considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. All articles must be typed or legibly hand-written and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Strobe article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

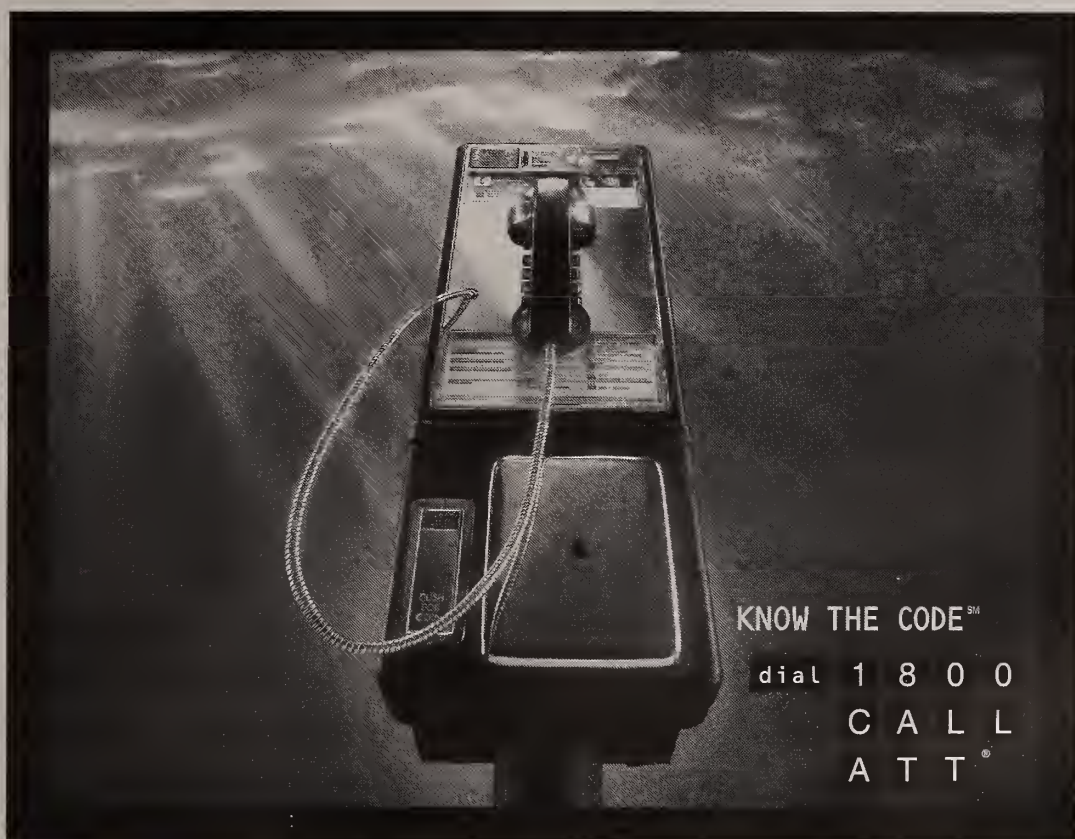
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QUESTION FOR PRESIDENT RICCARDS

President Riccards,

When you were first named as our President, the newspapers quoted your mention of staff development as part of your goals for the college. Given the fact that I have thus far had three members of the faculty who have admitted in class that they "do not want to be here" (two of them within my major!), would you please specify for us exactly what you intend to do for staff development here at FSC and when will these programs begin?

-Thank you.



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Police Log

Sunday, March 24, 1996

Parking Tickets Issued: 5

4:05 a.m. — General Information: Second floor bathroom shower in Mara village #1 would not shut off after use. RD was notified and Residence Life advised that they would contact their maintenance people.

Monday, March 25, 1996

Parking Tickets Issued: 4

12:12 a.m. — Police Information: FSC student called and advised while she was walking down Highland Street, an unknown person in a truck tried to get the student into the vehicle. The student was informed to notify Fitchburg Police Department with a complete description of the truck and if the student had any more questions to call campus safety for assistance.

9:35 a.m. — Breaking and Entering: Lounge in McKay C-wing broken into. Refrigerator broken into, larceny of consumable products.

9:45 a.m. — Larceny: C-wing of McKay building, a wall phone receiver taken.

7:15 p.m. — Suspicious Activity: Red beam being aimed at Townhouse Building #6 from second floor Building #7. Campus safety checked and found a student aiming an Infra Red pointer. The student was advised to stop.

10:20 p.m. — Hate/Bias Crime: A female resident student is harassing an Assistant Director. The resident director was called aracial name not appropriate for a college setting.

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Parking Tickets: 24

2:57 a.m. — Request for Police: Suspicious activity outside Mara Village #7. Someone yelling from the woods.

3:07 a.m. — General Information: A student was yelling to get his friend's attention because his friend's car, which was parked at Cedar St., had the radio stolen. The students who requested the police also stated that they had seen two Spanish-speaking males in the area, though campus safety was unable to locate these individuals.

2:05 p.m. — Police Information: Student called campus safety asking if they had towed his car. Negative. He states that he contacted Fitchburg PD inquiring if they towed his vehicle. Negative. The student stated that he thinks he parked his car in Ross Lot yesterday around 2:00 p.m. He returned about 1:45 p.m. today and the vehicle was not in the lot. The owner was then driven all around the campus and side streets to look for lost vehicle. Larceny report turned in on a 1987 red Chevy Camaro.

9:18 p.m. — Motor Vehicle Stop: Campus safety stopped vehicle on highland Avenue and spoke with operator about her excess speed through campus. Advised operator that classes were still in session and people are walking about the area. Operator said that she would be more aware of her surroundings in the future.

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Parking Tickets Issued: 27

9:20 a.m. — General Information: Faculty member filled a larceny form for a lost key to Thompson Hall. Key was later put on the chief's desk, but it was unknown who put it there. Faculty member was contacted and filled out the paperwork requesting a new key. The person was given a key quite a while ago.

1:15 p.m. — General Information: Campus safety in Residence Life Office speaking with the owner, staff, of a vehicle that was parked in the Resident Director's space.

2:00 p.m. — Larceny: Report of bank card ID and \$20 taken.

6:40 p.m. — Disturbance: Two students at station reporting a disturbance that occurred at Holmes Dining Commons at approximately 6:00 p.m. Identities of the instigator(s) not known at this time.

7:18 p.m. — Harassment/Threat to Kill: Student and companion at station reporting that a student has been harassing her and today made verbal statements that she would kill her. The student victim only wanted a report on file and no other action taken.

Thursday, March 28, 1996

No Parking Tickets Reported For This Day To The Strobe

1:03 a.m. — Request for Police: Suspicion of marijuana in Aubuchon Hall found negative.

8:45 a.m. — Animal Complaint: FSC student reported that a person in a pick-up truck released a dog from the vehicle, removed its collar, and left. Fitchburg Animal control Officer contacted and responded.

9:10 a.m. — Non-Criminal Complaint: Report of a truck parked under the fire escape at Thompson Hall, hindering the movement of physically challenged student(s). Attempted to locate owner of motor vehicle to have them move it from the area.

2:15 p.m. — Dispersal: McKay students attempting to hit one another with broom handles dispersed.

2:20 p.m. — Non-Criminal Complaint: A student's car was parked in someone's driveway. Campus safety attempted to notify owner and met with negative results.

9:00 p.m. — Dangerous Condition: A propane tank was found in the station. unknown who it belongs to. It was unknown where to store the tank or whom it belongs to. Later, it was learned that Grounds crew (Facilities) gave it to campus police to handle the propane gas tank. Called Fitchburg Fire Department: they advise that the tank cannot be stored where humans are, in an enclosed area, or where we live.

Friday, March 28, 1996

Parking Tickets Issued: 37

5:15 a.m. — Police Information: Patriot Ambulance Company called to request information on a drunk student they had transported to Burbank Hospital.

11:05 a.m. — Request for Police: Male caller states that he is receiving harassing phone calls and wished for a report number to offer to the phone company. The caller was advised that he must file a report, in person, in order to obtain a report number. He advised that he would likely file a report on Monday April 1.

1:28 p.m. — Request for Police: Female FSC student experiencing dizziness, asking for someone to walk her to Health Services. She had no prior history of drugs/ medications or anorexia. Escorted her without incident.

6:55 p.m. — Larceny: Walkman taken from a missing bag that was found in Conlon IA building.

Father Rich publishes The First Easter Bunny

by Kris Veno
Features Editor

According to The Catholic Free Press, Father Rich Lewandowski, the Newman Center's chaplain for almost fourteen years, had "hoped that his first published work would be a deep and meaningful theological treatise." Though his hopes were not met, the book he did publish was meaningful in a different way.

The First Easter Bunny started as a story Lewandowski told to parishioners during the Easter season three years ago. He told the *Telegram and Gazette*, "Then after the services, people wanted a copy of the story. I thought it might be a good idea to write it down and see if I could get it published."

He did. With the help of his nephew, Brent Anderson, a 17-year-old student at St. John's, and Beth Duffey, the Catholic chaplain at Clark University and a former FSC student, Lewandowski published the book on his own. Anderson's interest in marketing and business led him to help with the marketing, and Duffey introduced Lewandowski to her sister-in-law, the artist who illustrated the book.

"To be doing a book and see how widely it's been received," Lewandowski said, "[has] been a lively and fun experience." *The First Easter Bunny*, a story about how a little bunny saw Jesus's life form his

birth to his resurrection. "The rabbit is so excited about the resurrection and wants to tell everyone the good news, but he can't because rabbits can't talk," Lewandowski told the *Telegram and Gazette*. The rabbit is then given a job by God to bring the joy to everyone. The rabbit becomes a special messenger for God, and delivers the joy of Easter by bringing special treats to children.

Since the book's release in February, it has been well received in 25 states across the United States. It has gone through the National Catholic Wire Services, and Lewandowski gets letters and calls from throughout the country to send the book. Lewandowski believes it has been an exciting experience to see all that goes in to publishing a book, and also to see the reaction his story has gotten from all over.

He has the same feelings about FSC. "It's an exciting place," he said. "a place where students have great opportunities..." Here they are sharpening their own values and direction. "In my dealings [with FSC]," Lewandowski said, "I've seen an awful lot of success stories" Including his own in the message that he is teaching about the Catholic spirit of Easter.

Kris Veno is a junior Early Childhood Education, English: professional writing major.

"Let Us Serve You" update

Many FSC administrators, faculty, and staff will be serving students at the "Let Us Serve You Night" in Holmes Dining Hall. There will be light entertainment, and a free raffle for door prizes.

Students with meal plan ID may pick up a ticket at Holmes Dining Hall from 4-6:30 p.m. on April 16, 17, or 18. Students that do not have a meal plan ID may get a free ticket in the Library or the McKay DG & CE Satellite Office on the same days.

7:30 p.m. — Dangerous Condition/Motor Vehicle Violation: Officer had conversation with student about driving a motor vehicle the wrong way on Highland Avenue.

Saturday, March 30, 1996

No Parking Tickets Reported For This Day To The Strobe

10:23 p.m. — Medical Call: Person having trouble breathing in the Main Quad. She left her inhaler at Snow Street. Person was given a ride with her friends and was okay. Asthma attack.

11:40 p.m. — Message (Emergency) Delivery Requested: Sister of student calling asking that we deliver an emergency message to the student to call home because a close relative had been in a serious accident. In checking our records, the student does not live on campus and campus safety had no information on his off-campus whereabouts. The sister was called back and advised of this. She said that she would likely call back on Monday and try to get it delivered to him in one of his classes.



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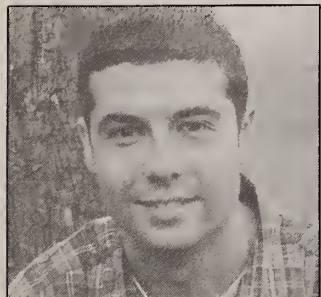
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Now That The Smoke Has Cleared



by Ron Taupier
Opinion Editor

In a year during which Fitchburg State is truly making history, last Sunday's gun shootings in Mara's Village opens yet another chapter in the dismal novel about the violence and lack of safety surrounding our academic institution. It is

unfortunate that such a beautiful campus is nestled in an ailing community, saturated with violence and corruption.

"The area really isn't as bad as everyone makes it out to be," I would find myself telling friends and family to calm their fears. All of the violence and crime would occur off-campus, and for the most part, on-campus housing was free from the city dweller's quest for trouble. Well, last week FSC became as "bad" as everyone makes it out to be. Though tragic, let's not let one night of gunfire take away from the beauty of our school. Every student on campus has experienced that total lack of pride when walking

down the side streets adjacent to the campus. This comfortless and unpleasant feeling disappears when one steps foot on campus grounds, and is encompassed by the brick buildings where intellectual minds meet in search of knowledge.

Beauty is, without question, in the eye of the beholder. Unfortunately, safety is not a function of perception, it is a reality. It is a controllable expense, so to speak, that campus administration is finally realizing. I laud the efforts to increase manpower and patrols on campus. We can thank Mayor Jeffrey Bean for providing our campus and

adjacent neighborhoods with additional Fitchburg Police. Although these men dressed in blue certainly do not add to the decor of our campus, they offer something more valuable—safety. President Riccards' efforts to beautify the campus are much appreciated. It is too bad that his greatest opponent is something that cannot be rebuilt, torn down, or renovated. Rather, it is the thoughtlessness of a few individuals.

I enjoy walking through the quad at Fitchburg State College. It is a place where ambitious students and faculty gather, each for a different reason. As students, we cannot let one night of injustice and idiocy destroy

our pride. We cannot build walls surrounding our campus, thereby isolating it from the outside world. I utilize the four imaginative "walls" created by the buildings named Thompson, Percival, Edgerly and Sanders. These are the buildings that "stand guard" 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, to supply our student body with protection. If you are ever looking for solace, and complete shelter from the foolishness that happens in Fitchburg, stand where these buildings have stood since 1894 and you can almost hear them whisper to you. These are the buildings that tell the happy ending to the dismal novel about safety and violence in Fitchburg.

Students Social Needs Are Ignored



by Mark Witkowski
Staff Reporter

It has come to my attention that Fitchburg State College, in its infinite wisdom, has a little-known unwritten rule stating that there are to be no campus-wide events during the last two academic weeks of a semester. What kind of a rule is this? At a time in which students need avenues to relieve stress the

most—the college takes away every on-campus opportunity. This lack of activities will just drive students to vent their frustrations at off-campus locations.

As students, we are being deprived of rightly deserved, and funded programs. This is completely unacceptable, and I am discouraged with the administration for failing to acknowledge the social needs of students. In this so-called "Year of the Student," isn't it a good idea to actually provide students with programs and events that we might actually enjoy; when we need them the most? We are being deprived of the full college experience. The administration has failed us by not allowing events to take place, and this must change!

With all the unnecessary rules and regulations imposed on students today, it makes me wonder what toll it takes on us. Some feel that students have been turned off and numbed by campus events because of these rules. Others simply get frustrated and give up on FSC. Because of this, we are dubbed apathetic students, which brings us down even more.

Is this a personality problem? Are the students to blame? Or is it just another failure in the philosophy of Fitchburg State? I can only shake my head in disbelief at the entire situation, and hope that this rule gets rescinded. If it is not, we will yet again, be deprived of the college experience.

Coping with registration blues

by Jessica McGowan
Correspondent

There I was, standing at the end of a mile-long line, hoping against hope, and praying to the registration gods that my classes would have one seat available. Yep, you guessed it, college registration time again. A time when countless numbers of otherwise normal people become bumbling fools. A time when some laugh, others cry, and still others stare wide-eyed in numb disbelief.

It all starts with the course offerings newspaper which looks harmless enough when it arrives in your mailbox, but few can guess at first glimpse what evil tricks lie inside. This wonderful compilation boasts hundreds of courses available for students to take at their leisure. In fact any student can take a course they don't need at about twenty different times of the day; however, a course they do need simply is not there. I remember how unsuspecting I

was when I first got mine. After about three days, I knew I was in need of some major help.

That's when I thought of meeting with my advisor. This thoughtful woman was provided by the college to "help" me with any problems. I could tell she really cared when she looked at me with those dove eyes and said, "I really don't have time to meet with you, maybe next week after registration is over." I found a time when she was free and discovered which courses I could and could not take. That's right, this woman had the power to tell me I could not take the courses of my choice even though I pay to be here. After much work and pleading I found a schedule which she frowningly approved. Now there was nothing left for me to do but wait for my turn to register.

I found myself sandwiched between the "Yes! All the nuclear fusion courses are still open!" geek and the "What do

you mean I have to take four courses?" moron. To pass the time, I gazed helplessly at the seats-available monitor, hoping to see my courses fly by at lightning speeds.

Up ahead at the door to the registration room another of the college's friendly faces cranked students in and out of the room, eyes glowing with a sadist's ecstasy. And I, one of the many, clutching my meager schedule, waiting for the shrill sound of "Next!" was hoping that it would be my turn.

Finally, I found myself sitting in front of a devil woman whose eyes were bulging from staring at a computer terminal. She was to be my last remaining hope of actually attending courses in the upcoming semester—a woman who I swore could breathe fire. I humbly handed her my schedule and anxiously awaited the outcome. "Full, full, full," said the screen. The courses came up one by one, but wait, there was one left flashing on the screen. I leaned forward

Choose and loose

by Andrew Shanley
Staff writer

Okay, it's election time. A time for all Americans to come to the aid of his or her party. But what if the party that you most identify with doesn't have any clear leadership? Now that it's the election of '96, candidates from the Republican party have been campaigning for the presidency, the highest office in the United States government. Now, I have always been taught to respect the right to vote. I also take pride in the right to vote. But what if you don't like any of the candidates? What if you just don't see eye to eye with anything they are saying?

In this age of "Choose or Loose" I can only say this: What if you Choose AND Loose at the same time? With the election now in almost full swing, I remember the good old days when I was a kid, choosing a candidate and standing by him only because he looked and sounded good. It was simpler then, but now those reasons for choosing a candidate are unfortunately a reality. Politics has become a sporting event where the media serves up popularity approval polls like scoreboards. Candidates promise things that they just can't deliver. I guess you get sick if you watch enough of it, but that's politics. The same politics that promoted senators who wrote bad checks, abused women and took money and gifts from lobbyists.

I have decided that I will not vote this year. Not because it is inconvenient, or that the person I was in favor of dropped out. Rather, I just don't like anyone running. I don't view myself as "Un-American" if I choose not to vote. As a matter of fact, I think there are a lot of Americans out there who feel the same way: Tired of the same old broken promises of a balanced budget and equality in a volatile society.

What is the point of buying a product if you don't feel it is reliable? Would you buy something if it broke over and over again? I sure wouldn't. That's the state of American politics today. I am just sick of the grandstanding. So to all those people out there who are pressuring me to vote, I say find someone I can believe in. A candidate who isn't perfect, and doesn't pretend to be. Then I will consider voting.

longingly. "Congratulations," said the woman, "you got into Choral Arts." I murmured my thanks and got up to go. I had the only course I did not need. Now I would have to hunt down the professors and red card every course so that I could begin the entire process over again.

Only I could have such luck, one professor said yes, another said no, and a third was out on sabbatical and wouldn't be in for months. Quite disappointed, I turned to the course offerings newspaper one more time.

Don't worry there is a happy ending. Eventually, I was able to register without the loss of any major organs. However, my success is not so typical. There are many who aren't so lucky. You can see them on campus; they're called non-traditional students. Actually, they're students that never figured out how to register and so they can never leave the school again. I am lucky I don't have to go through this again until fall.

Responses to "Year of the student"

In his editorial in last week's issue of The Strobe, Rick Rodricks indicates his concern that students- and particularly the Strobe - were not informed about the circumstances surrounding the incident on Sunday evening and that administrators withheld information. At the risk of being viewed as sensitive, I must respond to some of his statements.

Mr. Rodricks' statements that college administrators "delayed considerably" in notifying students about the incident and withheld information is untrue. The college responded quickly to inform students about the incident and took several precautions to ensure their safety.

* On Sunday evening, upon notification, I immediately came to campus, along with Dr. Ratto, Dan Flynn, Chief Cunningham and Chris Corsello to assess the situation and meet with students.

* That same evening I met with every individual in New Halls BUIldings 4 & 5 who was home to minimize speculation about what occurred and calm student fears.

* On Monday morning by 10:30 a.m., "Stay Safe" notices

were distributed to residence halls and posted on campus buildings.

* Monday was a hectic and stressful day for the entire campus. President Riccards met with students involved in the incident and worked with ampus departments to respond to students' concerns. Public Safety worked with the State Police regarding the investigation. Student Affairs administrators visited the New Halls to check-in with students - many of whom felt intruded upon by the Boston news media. In addition, we fielded many calls from concerned students and their families.

* Information meetings were scheduled at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. after classes were held so students could attend. President Riccards, Mayor Bean, college and local police, counselors and college administrators facilitated the meetings which were attended by approximately 200 students. Members of Boston news media were not permitted to access the meetings. At these meetings some students suggested they would have liked to have been informed as to what happened on Sunday evening. College staff discussed this on Sunday evening and decided that

going door-to-door at 1:00 a.m., waking students and notifying them of the incident would only escalate their fears. I am sure if we had done this, the campus would have been in an uproar. In light of all of this, I would make the same recommendation again.

* Counseling Services met with students throughout the week. A handful of students sought assistance. Last Wednesday, just one student attended a meeting in the New Halls hosted by Counseling Services and Residence Life.

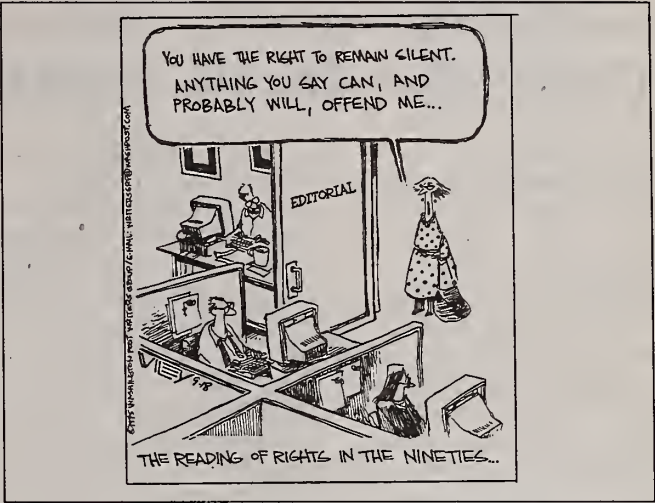
* Students were offered the opportunity to move to other residence halls temporarily or permanently if they felt unsafe. A few students slept elsewhere Sunday evening and no one has moved permanently.

* President Riccards has also:

-hired the City of Fitchburg police to assist our campus police officers

-hired uniformed security guards to patrol the residence areas on foot from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. daily through the end of the semester

-authorized campus police to



initiate ballistics training and required paperwork so our officers can carry guns

-informed campus and family members of his concern for students' safety and his response to the incident

President Riccards announced this year would be the "Year of the Student" to remind us all - students included - how important students are to the college. Several programs were initiated including the Students Speaks Out, Student Appreciation Day, and the upcoming "Let us Serve You Dinners."

It is unfortunate that "many [students] have been feeling

neglected this past year." I know that many members of the Student Affairs Division - as well as other college staff - have worked hard to reach out to hear what interests students have. In addition, the SGA and student organizations are always looking for students to share ideas and become invovled.

Finally, I am always willing to meet with students individually or as a group to disuss concerns and ideas and invite students to contact me at 665-3131 or stop by the Student Affairs Office in the Sanders Administration Building.

Ann E.Coyne,
Associate V.P.
Student Affairs

Letters To The Editor



The Real "College Experience"

I am writing in response to Andrew Shanley's editorial, "To Drink or not to Drink" (Issue 8). I was inspired by Mr. Shanley's sober viewpoint. My feelings are directed towards him, and other non-alcoholic students that feel they are neglecting their social life.

Next time you are in DAKA for supper, look around at your crowded dining commons, and think—how many people in this cafeteria will graduate? What would you say if it were only one in every two? Fifty-percent of the students that come to Fitchburg State College do not graduate. More specifically, about half of the matriculating freshman will not make it to graduation ceremonies. Surprised? This stat means that one out of every two students will never meet the minimum requirements to complete a degree program. Why does this happen?

Several high school students come to college with the illusion that they can squeeze by and have a great time—the "College Experience." A good number of these students find their way to academic probation after their first semester. Others skim by, either by luck, superior intellect or by passing multiple gym classes. Students like these may find out by the end of their sophomore year that college isn't for them. They've sucked all the fun out of every party and every keg stand, and have no more reason to be here. These individuals have wasted their parents money, and valuable time.

I have offered my analysis of the FSC graduation rate to make a point. Many students on and off campus feel that they are missing out on the "College Experience." Students like Mr. Shanley and myself may feel that they are avoiding an aspect of their social life by not drinking, and devoting too much time to academics. I propose that those students who neglect their work are missing out on the "College Experience"—because they may never finish college.

Keith Fredericks
Staff reporter

Response #2

Rick Rodricks writes of the recent shooting incident at the New Halls, "It is 3:10 p.m. on Monday afternoon and I know less than the unwelcomed news crews from Boston television stations."

He goes on to complain at length his lack of information is the college's fault, and arises from public relations staff having spent "all day preparing to greet the mass media... never really considering how nervous students might feel." He also accuses Student Services of withholding "vital, wanted information," leaving students to live "under the burden of heavy speculation."

I don't know where Mr. Rodricks was until 3:10 p.m., but by that time on Monday, the college team dealing with the crisis had:

1. Assisted the two students who had been shot at.
2. Talked with residents in New Halls 4 and 5 about the incident and offered alternative housing.
3. Called in state and local police to begin an investigation with Public Safety.
4. Started the process of obtaining additional police and private security for the balance of the semester.
5. Released information to the Boston media, which aired information on the incident in all their morning news programs.
6. Organized two public meetings for 4:30 and 6 p.m. for students to ask questions of college and city officials.
7. Prepared a "Safety Alert" and posted it on billboards throughout the campus, providing a report of the incident and a notice of the meeting.
8. Wrote and addressed thousands of letters to students, parents, faculty and family informing them of the incident.
9. Met with Strobe editor Sonja Randall to answer her questions.
10. Provided additional information to the Boston television stations that swarmed over campus, information that was again broadcast widely at noon and later.
11. Fielded phone inquiries from dozens of concerned parents, as well as reporters from newspapers and radio stations.

How Mr. Rodricks managed to remain so unaware of the facts and unsusceptible to rumor mongering in the face of this massive effort to inform him is difficult to explain. But in the future, rather than blame others for what he doesn't know, I'd suggest he check a bulletin board, stop by the Public Relations office, ask one of the more enterprising members of the Strobe staff, call someone in Student Services or Campus Security, turn on the TV or the radio, or read a newspaper.

Daniel S. Flynn, Vice President for Advancement

Coen Brothers create another miniature masterpiece

Film Review

Fargo, produced and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen

by Memo Salazar
Staff Reporter

For over a decade now, the enigmatic Coen Brothers have been creating little known masterpieces for the world to swallow. Whether it's the popular *Raising Arizona*, the critical success *Millers Crossing*, or the vastly underrated *Hudsucker Proxy*, the Coen Brothers have gone through the Hollywood machine relatively unscathed. With each film they have managed to create a unique work while still maintaining their trademark visual flair and satirical portrayal of human nature.

Fargo is no different. Like their previous films, it exaggerates the reality of the world, bringing out some truth of human nature. This time they focus on the bland matter-of-factness which dominates the Minnesotan way of life.

William H. Macy is perfect as Jerry, a pathetic car dealer whose desire for self-respect pushes him to make extremely stupid decisions. Frances McDormand (wife of director Joel Coen) does an equally impressive job as Marge, the impregnated police chief trying to find a murderer. Both characters, though on different sides of the law, face life with such deadpan blandness that the film continually bounces back and forth between comedy and drama. You will find yourself

laughing out loud and then realizing that what you are laughing at should not be funny.

In direct contrast to this bizarre world of the Midwest is the kidnapper, played by the great Steve Buscemi, whose no-nonsense rat-like character feels like a fish out of water in this land of snow. Buscemi, who seems to be perennially playing second string when it comes to big-budget pictures, finally gets some real screen time to show the masses how funny he can be. Though he and the police chief never actually meet, their scenes are constantly juxtaposed to further a recurring theme in all Coen movies: people are sad, sad, sad but funny creatures.

Macy's character, Jerry, is a perfect example of the quintessential Coen character:

he is your average guy, capable of some truly evil things, yet you can't help but feel sorry for him because, after all, he is just a guy. Like Nicholas Cage in *Raising Arizona*, Tim Robbins in *Hudsucker Proxy*, or both John Turturro and John Goodman in *Barton Fink* (the Coens' best and hardest to swallow film), William H. Macy succeeds in transferring this theme to the big screen.

While their previous films have been incredibly visual, *Fargo* seems to be a return for the Coen brothers to their first film, the low-budget mystery, *Blood Simple*. *Fargo* is also incredibly visual, but in a subtle way. Joel's usual sweeping camera shots are replaced with deadpan wide-angle shots which create the feeling of sparseness

not only spatially but emotionally as well. By the end of the movie you are convinced that everyone here lives humbly and simply, like ants in the dirt, doing whatever it is they do, whether it's selling cars or catching crooks.

There is no place for self-analysis here. Like Winnie the Pooh says, "people just are." Maybe that is why the Coen brothers had to make this film. They grew up in Minnesota, isolated, and obviously at odds with such an environment. As artists, the Coen brothers were too self-aware to remain comfortable here, and *Fargo* represents a coming home of sorts. Go see *Fargo* soon, its entertaining and stimulating--how often does that combination happen at your local theater?

7th Rail Crew plays at Bentley College

by Rebecca Kiley
Photo Editor

7th Rail Crew is a Waltham based band consisting of six members; Jay Lawn and Paul Piantedosi on vocals, Ennio Avallone on guitar, Chris Repassy on bass, Jeff Lawn on drums, and Tom Gemelli on auxiliary percussion. Their style of music is difficult to describe. Although it is similar to rap their live performances demonstrate that their talent extends beyond the traditional style of rap.

On March 22, 7th Rail Crew played at Bentley College in Waltham. Since Waltham happens to be the band's hometown they were especially pumped up. Two bands, neither

of which were impressive, performed before them. The crowd appeared to be slowly getting smaller during this, but when 7th Rail came on, the crowd returned only to double in size.

The stage presence of Lawn and Piantedosi was remarkable. They played so well off one another that it wasn't surprising to see them and the crowd pumped up for the entire concert. 7th Rail Crew put everything they had into the show, something the other bands failed to do.

The music, energetic and powerful, boasted some great grooves and lyrics. Their style is obviously their own and not something copied from the latest trend. *The Worcester Phoenix*

recently nominated 7th Rail Crew for best rap/hip hop act.

Their demo tape, "Brotherhood of Seven," featuring Death Siege, Mindcheck, and 24-7 is now available. Although it is not the best representation of them, it is still quite good. To get the true experience you have to see them live.

This band is highly recommended, you won't be disappointed. If you would like information on ordering a demo tape or if you are interested in show dates contact:

7th Rail Crew
C/O Paul Piantedosi
1114 Main St.
Waltham, MA 02154



7th Rail Crew

Publicity photo

"Blue Skies" Livens Band Concert

by Rebecca Kiley
Photo Editor

A band concert was held last Wednesday night in Weston Auditorium.

The usual mix of marches and Disney music were performed, and there were a few pleasant surprises.

The first performance of the Saxophone Ensemble was short, yet enjoyable. It included beginners to seasoned veterans who carried their share of the performance quite well. The most enjoyable portion of the evening was the Jazz band.

Two solo vocalists were featured. Dayna DeBeradinis sang a beautiful rendition of Elton John's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" while Senior Edward Dunn III conducted the band. Brian Duguay sang Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies." It was hard not to be sucked in by Duguay's smooth voice that, according to one member of the audience, could melt the hardest of stones.



Brian Duguay

Photo by Rebecca Kiley

LISTEN TO

FUSIONIC BLUR

We may be fuzzy around the edges, but at least we're not all there.

PART A
FRIDAY @ 11:30 am

PART B
SUNDAY @ 3:30 pm

THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT
TUESDAY @ 11:00 pm

Only on...

W.A.P.A.

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE RADIO

Blimp Pilots Wanted, Apply Within

by Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

What is better than virtual reality, more fascinating than fiction, and more fun than *Doom*?

If you said *Doom 2* or *Duke Nukem*, you need to get out more. Well, even if you do not want to get out, as in *away from the computer*, you can still go places. Eric Paulos and John Canny at the University of California, Berkeley's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science departments have combined a small helium blimp, a miniature camera, and a World Wide Web site to create the unsuspecting world "Space Browser: A Tool for Ubiquitous Tele-embodiment."

Space Browser is not a game,

it is a mobile robot (mobot) which will allow on-line users to control the blimp and pilot it around a building, such as an art gallery. The blimp will go where the user commands and transmit audio and video images back from its remote location.

"Compared to a true visit, the mobot tele-visit is a reasonably good substitute," said Paulos. Both Paulos and Canny are optimistic about the possibilities of their blimps. In their current web site found at <http://vive.cs.berkeley.edu/blimp>, they express that "blimp mobots offer an experience that is even richer than human experience."

The benefits of the blimp are numerous. According to its innovators, these mobots can travel around spaces filled with humans without bumping into

them. It can fly up and down stairs, over littered terrain, and through a crowd. These transportation features will allow the blimp to participate in various environments without being overtly intrusive.

The blimps are about the size of a human head, some as small as 3 ounces. As they float around a real space, the pilot can choose to visit things that are happening live and interact with them where appropriate. For example, if you were at your home computer piloting a mobot around the Campus Center here at FSC, you could send your blimp up to a crowd of friends in the lounge to say "hi," but would avoid a tour group being led to the library.

At this time, however, unless you want to purchase and set-up

your own Space Browser (costing about \$1000), you will have to wait until the creators at UCalBerkeley get theirs online. Paulos and Canny expect to have a web site ready by late spring which will allow visitors to pilot some of their featured mobots.

The blimps currently cost around \$300 (without video camera or transmitter), and the rest of the hardware is considerably more. Yet, its developers see into the near future where their design will be the preferred method of remote telecommunication. Their vision of blimp-to-human interaction, such as the example of you and your friends in the lounge, seems plausible considering the passive characteristics of the blimp

mobot.

It seems incredibly surreal to imagine a roomful of people mingling in a crowded gallery while hovering blimps slowly weave their way from place to place. The quiet whir of the flying machines as they pass gently by human heads will add a touch of gentility to telecommunications where today we have the callous interruption of cell-phones and beepers.

Check out this Website and look forward to flying a blimp around Berkeley. Also, any Computer Science or Industrial Technology majors may find it valuable to see what their colleagues at other schools are doing.

All Nude Review

Film Review **1/2
Showgirls, now on video

by Keith Fredricks
Staff Reporter

This movie shows a lot of girls on video. Elizabeth Berkley, better known as "Jess" on "Saved by the Bell," stars in the movie as a not-so-intelligent nude dancer. If you want to see pornography don't rent *Showgirls*, this movie is far from the porno that it was portrayed as being.

Showgirls is based upon a young lady who travels to Las Vegas to pursue her dream of dancing. As in the typical "Hollywood" scene she starts out working in a strip joint, and eventually makes her way to the big time as a Showgirl. About the only thing that changes for her in this position is that the "show" she dances in is supposedly respectable and prestigious. At any rate, she learns what it takes to make it to the top, over night. There are lots of bumps along the way, blah, blah, blah same old thing.

This movie is highly criticized for being a disgusting, degrading, plotless porno. These reviews are WAY off base. There is only ONE true sex scene in the whole movie (less than most movies), one lap dance, a rape, and only two short incidents of two girls kissing (not a big deal unless your a bigot). Although these things may be for adults only, they don't make good pornography. So what was all the hype about?

Nudity. 60% of this film has topless females. Although nudity and sex are almost equally taboo in society,

they are not the same thing. With that said, let's discuss the movie, not the hype.

This is a story about a NOBODY trying to make the big time. The hidden objective of the main character is to find herself. The plot's a cliché with naked women. It tries to be "Rags to Riches," "Dirty Dancing," and "Pretty Women" all at once, with nudity. The Plot doesn't really work, but it's not nearly as bad as its reviews. There are many reasons that this film bombed besides the plot.

Bad acting—Elizabeth Berkley contributed her fair share in making the lead character seem "unreal." If the audience can not relate to the plot, then they must be able to relate to the lead character. They can't.

The nudity—It is abundant, but also redundant. If the surplus of nudity is supposed to compensate for the void in the plot, it doesn't. It actually defuses itself and the accompanying sex scene with overkill. The viewer gets so adapted to the nudity, that by the end of the film it becomes an uninteresting attribute to a lost plot. Those who saw this movie for nudity and sex were disappointed. Ninety-five percent of the viewers were disappointed.

Bottom line—Aside from the faults mentioned above, this is an interesting story, but the interest quickly fades. Does she make the big time? Does "the big time" go to her head? Does she find herself?

Overall I would say that It's not worth the two hours and ten minutes to find out. One last thing—The ending is worth it, if you make it that far.

For Dr. Markham's many English 1200 students who have been struggling with Shakespeare's Elizabethan English, he is happy to provide the following study guide in a grammar and syntax more readily apprehended by students of the late twentieth-century.

The Othello Rap

This is a story of a fellow who called himself Othello,

His arm was mighty, his mind was mellow,
And a punk named Iago who made himself a menace,
Cuz he didn't like Othello, the Moor of Venice.

Now Othello got married to Desdemona,
Then took off for the war and left her alone-a
It was a moan-a, a groan-a, he left her alone-a
He didn't write her a letter and he didn't telephone-a.

Desdomona, she was faithful, she was chastity-tight,
She was a Senator's daughter, she was totally right.
But Iago had a plan that was clever and slick,
He was crafty, he was sly, he was an all-around prick.

He said, "I'm gonna shaft the Moor,
Cuz I didn't make Lieutenant, and I'm pretty sore."
How you gonna do it—Iago, tell us.
"Well I know his tragic flaw is that he's too damn jealous!
I need a dupe, I need a dope, I need a kind of schmoe."
So he finds a chump-sucker by the name of Cassio.

Iago plants Desdemona's handkerchief,
And Othello gets to wondering, "Just maybe, if—
While I've been out fighting, commanding the Army,
Are Desi and Cass playing Hide the Salami?"
So Othello comes home and sticks a pillow in her face,
Says he loves her and soliloquizes about his disgrace.
But remember Emilia (whom we met in Act IV)?
She beats in the door, says, "You crazy Moor,
Your wife was no whore, what' dja kill her for?
She was good, she was true, and she was virginal too,
Why'd you have to go and make her face turn blue?
It's true—it's you—Now what'cha gonna do?"

Othello says, "Hey, this is getting pretty scary."
So he takes out his blade and commits Hari-Kari.
Iago got busted and his lawyer copped a plea,
Then he loaded up his bags and he moved to Beverly...
Hills, that is, where Venice is a Beach,
Changed his name, changed his fame, and he really can't be reached.

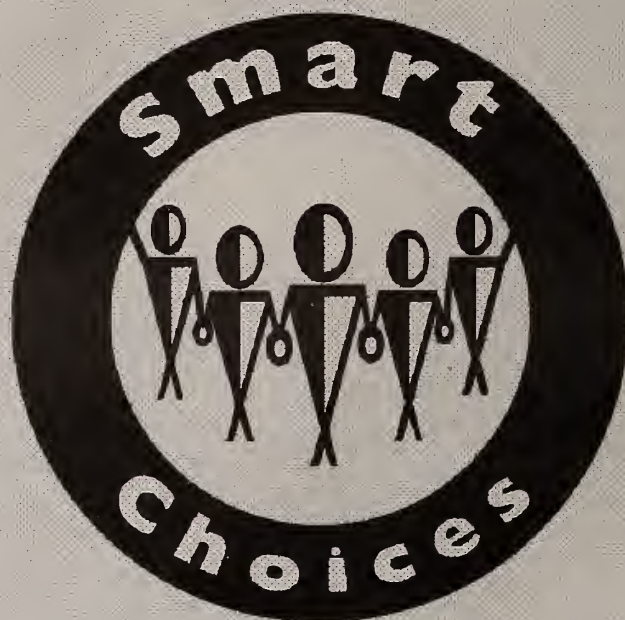


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Become a Smart Choices Peer Educator

Smart Choices Peer Education is a student organization that focuses on empowering students to make educated decisions about abstinence and safer sex and the use of alcohol and other drugs. Peer Educators are trained to use fact-filled interactive workshops that talk honestly about the issues of alcohol and HIV/AIDS and teach students about the dangers of risky behavior.

**Applications are available from the Student Affairs Office, Counseling Services, Health Services, Residence Life and the Student Activities Office.
Due by Tuesday, April 16th.**



Sponsored by the Substance Awareness Office & Counseling Services

Baseball drops two more

by Brian Lamy
Sports Editor

Last Saturday the Fitchburg State baseball team hosted Salem State for a double header in which the Falcons were swept, losing both games 8-3 and 3-2.

In the first of the two games the Falcons took to the field first with Steve Baldassare on the mound. Baldassare seemed to have problems settling down in the first inning. After pitching to only three Salem State players the bases were loaded with no outs. The Falcons then played some defense and managed to escape from that situation down by only one run.

Jeff Lambert, the pitcher for Salem State was right on the ball as the bottom of the first went 1, 2, 3.

In the second inning the Vikings scored two more runs making the score 3-0. Mark Pellizzaro got things started for them with a single to right center. After Joe Furtado popped out Baldassare walked Chet Morey. After another out Joe Parisi knocked the ball past second to drive in Pellizzaro and Morey. The Falcons fared no better in the second than they did in the first.

Not only was Lambert pitching well, but he hit a home

run in the top of the third to make the score 4-0.

The Falcon's offense got started in the bottom of the third. After Zach Lambert made it safely to first Matt Gauvin was hit in the arm and walked over to first. James Ingram made a sacrifice bunt to advance the runners, but was out at first. Victor Rojas then sent Lambert home with a single to short. Baldassare then singled to right bringing home another run and to make the score 4-2.

Salem scored another run in the fourth inning when Mike Sutura doubled to left center and then was knocked home by Paul O'Toole, who popped out to center. The score then read 5-2.

The Falcons who had been in trouble the whole game scored their last run of the game when Baldassare hit a home run to dead center. This run made the score 5-3.

Salem went on to score two more runs in the sixth and then one in the seventh to make the score final at 8-3.

"We didn't really hit the ball well," said coach John McGuirk. "Any time you get behind a team as good as Salem and you have to come from behind it's always tough."

Paul Reggio stepped up to the mound to begin the second game

for the Falcons, and made it out of the first inning down by three runs.

When the Falcons came up to bat they got started on the right foot scoring two runs right away.

The two teams battled evenly for a majority of the game, when it came down to the bottom of the seventh inning. Ingram made it to first safely with a hit to left field. Lambert then bunted and was out at first, but had advanced Ingram to second. Jason Dyer was then walked which put runners on first and second. The game then ended on a controversial double play. Derek Kilduff came up to bat and sent a ground ball to the short stop who flipped it over to second where Dyer was called out and then over to first where the first baseman's foot may have come off the bag, but Kilduff was called out. The hard-fought game ended with the tying run on third, 3-2.

"We needed to hit the ball out of the infield," said McGuirk, "and that key hit, the base hit, that we were looking for never came."

The Falcons will play at home today at 3:30 against Babson. They will also play in a double-header at home tomorrow against Plymouth State and then another Saturday at Bridgewater State.

Track results

This week both the men's and women's track teams placed first in the Co-ed Invitational Track and Field Meet held at Fitchburg State. The men's track and field team finished with 127 points while the women's finished with 157.

The top results of the meet are as follows.

Women

Wendy Gagliani placed first in the long jump with a leap of 16 feet, 3.75 inches. She also placed first in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.46 seconds and placed first in the 200 meters with a time of 26.91 seconds.

Ashley Aube placed third in the long jump with a leap of 14 feet, 3.25 inches.

Beverly Horsch placed third in the hammer throw with a toss of 76 feet, 3 inches. She also placed third in the javelin throw with a toss of 81 feet 11 inches.

Karen Druker placed second in the 10,000 meters with a time of 51:32.3.

Sandy Ruddock placed first in the high jump with a leap of 4 feet 10 inches. She also placed third in the 1500 meters with a time of 5:39.28 and placed third in the 800 meters with a time of 2:45.94.

Katie Brace placed first in the 400 meters with a time of 59.36 seconds and placed second in the 200 meters with a time of 27.29 seconds.

Maryanne Barrett placed second in the 400 meters with a time of 63.27 seconds.

Suzanne Whitnell placed third in the 3000 meters with a time of 12:03.7 and second in the 1500 meters with a time of 5:37.14. She also placed second in the 800 meters with a time of 2:45.52.

The 4x100 relay team of Brace, Gagliani, Barrett, and Aube placed first with a time of 52.49 seconds.

Men

Chris Coutu placed first in the Javelin throw with a toss of 186 feet, 2 inches. He also placed first in the pole vault when he cleared 11 feet. Coutu also placed third in the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, .25 inches.

Jude Jou Joute placed first in the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, 5.5 inches. Joute also placed second in the 100 meters with a time of 11.76 seconds.

Kieth Fredricks placed third in the 100 meters with a time of 11.78 seconds.

Brad Durbin placed third in the hammer throw with a toss of 78 feet, 4 inches.

Eric Nolan placed first in the 400 meters with a time of 52.5 seconds and placed second in the 200 meters with a time of 23.48 seconds.

Jason Bramble placed third in the 200 meters with a time of 24.2 seconds.

Coed volleyball results

Winner

Runner Up

Most Improved

Male MVP

Female MVP

Sportsmanship Award

St.Cyr

Esoteric I

Eric Seante

Greg Pepin

Rebecca Kiley

Iota Phi Theta



Financial Aid answer

A: Yes there is. Financial assistance for summer 1996 is available in the form of Federal Work Study and Federal Direct Loans. Work study is awarded during the summer to students who:

- *are eligible to apply for financial assistance,
- *submit their FAFSA by April 1st,
- *complete any additionally required information by June 1st, and
- *are awarded Federal Work Study for the 96-97 year.

Federal Direct Loans are also available during the summer to students who:

- *are eligible to apply for financial assistance,
- *submit their FAFSA by April 1st
- *complete any additionally required information by June 1st,
- *are enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits during EACH Summer session or which they wish to use their loan,
- *and sign their promissory note in a timely manner.

It is important to understand that any loan borrowed during the summer will reduce loan eligibility for the Fall and Spring semesters.

Summer financial aid applications are available in our office. Be advised that the deadline to apply for Work Study is April 30th. The deadline to apply for a Direct Loan is 2 weeks before the start of the session.

Softball has a rough weekend

by Norman Miller
Staff Reporter

Bethany Poitras made her return, but Becki Baker stole the show.

Poitras, pitching in her first game of the season for the Fitchburg State softball team suffered a disappointing loss to former Leominster High standout Baker, who led her Salem State team to a sweep the double header, 8-7 and 10-6.

"I was anxious," said Poitras. "A nervous kind of anxious. I didn't know how my arm would feel. I didn't know if my arm could go all the way."

The Falcons, 2-5 overall, 0-4 MASCAC, used two seventh inning rallies to force extra innings, but fell short in each game.

"We're a different team this Saturday," said coach Lisa Ann Wallace, comparing this week's double-header to last week's against Worcester State. "That's important, we're a young team. We only have one senior."

Poitras took the mound for Fitchburg State to the start the second game, and she had a rough first inning. Baker led the inning off with a single, and scored on Grace Parisi's single over second base. Parisi scored on a wild pitch, making it 2-0.

The Vikings, 4-9 overall, 2-0 MASCAC, added a run in the

fifth inning to make it 3-0. With the bases loaded, Poitras walked Lee Anne Kehoe to bring home Kathleen Collette.

Salem State extended their lead to 5-0 in the seventh inning. With one out Pam Lovely ripped a triple and scored on Jill Remick's error in right field. Bethany Hurst then scored on a double by Karen Masiello.

Baker had a great game through six innings, only allowing three hits, but then the seventh inning began. The Falcons ripped off five runs to tie the game at 5-5.

Remick led the inning off with a double to left field. Maureen Stack drove her in with a single. After Sarah Valley reached first on a fielder's choice, Melanie Creamer singled to drive in Stack and Valley, making it 5-3. After a pop-out by Kathy Herriot, Rachael Allen tripled to left field, driving in Creamer and Nolen to tie the game at 5-5.

"We tried to give them the game," said Viking coach Kathy O'Leary.

However, they did not give Fitchburg State the game as Salem crossed five runs over the plate, to take a 10-5 lead.

Fitchburg State added a run in the bottom of the eighth, but it was not enough, as the Falcons fell 10-6.

In the first game, the Vikings



Jill Remick slides home safely

Photo by Rebecca Kiley

took a 1-0 lead, with Kathleen Collette doubling Lori Dudevoir, who was on first after being walked by Valley.

FSC tied it up in the third inning. Herriot singled, was driven to third on Allen's double, and came in on a wild pitch by Baker.

The Vikings re-took their lead in the top of the fourth, 2-1. Jodi Higgins walked with one out, stole second, and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Baker then lined to left to drive in Higgins.

Salem State added three more runs in the fifth inning, making it 5-1. Hurst, Laurie Gilis, and Masiello all scored unearned runs on errors by

Nolen and Valley.

Nolen led the fifth inning off with a bunt single. After stealing second and third Herriot grounded to second base to get the RBI, making it 5-2.

Stack led the sixth inning off with a double, and scored on a single by Remick, cutting the lead to 5-3.

After the Vikings extended their lead to 6-2 in the top of the seventh, the Lady Falcons tied it up at 6-6. Herriot led the inning off with a single and went to second on a single by Dianne Horwath. Creamer singled and drove in Herriot. Valley then doubled in Horwath and Creamer to tie it up.

"We hit the ball pretty well,"

said Wallace. "Now we have to do it a little earlier."

Earlier in the week the Lady Falcons posted their first two wins of the season. The first was at Western New England College where Fitchburg defeated WNEC 8-3. Their second win was in a high scoring game at the McKay Campus field where they defeated Emanuel College 18-10.

The Lady Falcons will play again tomorrow at the McKay Campus field where they will host Plymouth State for a double header starting at 2:00. They will also play a double header Saturday at Bridgewater State and return home to play Rivier College Monday at 4:00.

Bay State Wheelers roll over FSC

by Brian Lamy
Sports Editor

Last Wednesday night the Bay State Wheelers rolled into Parkinson Gymnasium to raise awareness and money for the Garrett Conrad Scholarship Fund. Just to make things fair, the Massachusetts wheelchair basketball team, made up of some extremely talented individuals, traded scores with the FSC participants at the half and still defeated them 59-52.

The College formed eight teams, each of which played the

Wheelers for a 7:30 period. These teams also had to play in wheel chairs which were donated by local medical equipment rental companies. The teams from the college had obviously had some difficulties and not even the help of WHDH's Sports Director, Gene Lavanche, could help them score more than eight points the entire night.

The first team that faced the Wheelers was made up of local politicians, including Fitchburg's Mayor Bean. This

team did manage to score two points, while the Wheelers put 16 up on the board. Other teams included faculty members, the men's basketball team, the women's basketball team, and Sigma Phi.

The event entertained while it enlightened the audience, those who had never seen wheelchair basketball left truly impressed. Also, if anyone notices Gene Lavanche wearing a new pair of glasses on the air, that would be because he tried to catch the ball with his face.

Athlete of the week



by Brian Lamy
Sports Editor

This week's athlete of the week made a strong showing at the Co-ed Invitational Track Meet held here last Saturday where she became a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championship Meet. Her name is Katie Brace. Brace also helped lead the women's track team to a first place finish with 157 points.

Brace placed highly in

three events, the first of which was the 4x100 relay. The team, consisting of Brace, Wendy Gagliani, Maryann Barrett, and Ashley Aube placed first in the relay with a time of 52.49 seconds. Brace also placed first in the 400 meters with a time of 59.36 seconds, over three seconds faster than the second place finisher. Her performance in this race made her a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championship Meet. Brace also placed second in the 200 meters with a time of 27.29 seconds.

There are still quite a few meets remaining in the season and Brace is sure to keep up the hard work to get to the NCAA's.



In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

—Camus

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